

HOUSE BILL 339

By Winningham

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-933, relative to Tennessee HOPE foster child tuition grants.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-933, is amended by deleting subsection (e) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(e) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Cost of attendance" means the combined cost of tuition, mandatory fees, room and board, books and other educational expenses as determined by the financial aid office of the eligible postsecondary institution; and

(2) "Gift aid" means scholarships and grants from any source, including funds provided through the federal Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 and other similar programs. Student loans and work-study awards shall not be considered gift aid.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-933, is further amended by deleting subsection (f) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(f) The Tennessee HOPE foster child tuition grant shall be the cost of attendance less any gift aid, with the total HOPE foster child tuition grant amount not to exceed the cost of tuition and mandatory fees at the eligible postsecondary institution attended. Additionally, at an eligible independent postsecondary institution, the Tennessee HOPE foster child tuition grant shall not exceed the statewide average public tuition and mandatory fee rate for the type of institution (two-year or four-year) attended.

SECTION 3. The provisions of this act are declared to be remedial in nature and to that end shall apply to all Tennessee HOPE foster child tuition grant awards made on or after July 1, 2006.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.